

ABC, CBS, NBC

Coverage of the FBI agents' arrest in Los Angeles. Statements by William Webster, William French Smith and Ray Cline (ABC), Kenneth Walker reporting, (CBS) Terry Drinbwater reporting (NBC) Tom Brokaw reporting.

FBI SPY ARREST WALKER: This is Kenneth Walker in Washington. Top officials of the Justice Department and the FBI tried to put the best face on it, but it was clear that they don't yet know or they're unwilling to state publicly the extent of the damage from the Soviet KGB's apparent penetration of U.S. foreign counterintelligence activities. WILLIAM\WEBSTER (FBI director): I'd rather not discuss the damage itself. We're still assessing it. But I think that the vigorous nature and intensive investigation acted to limit what might have been a far more serious situation. WILLIAM\FRENCH\SMITH (U.S. attorney general): I have no doubt that the Soviets will do a great deal to find out about our counterintelligence efforts, but beyond that, I can't add anything specific.

WALKER: But the KGB has apparently learned a great deal about U.S. counterintelligence from this case. The government affidavit filed in the case shows that among the classified documents Miller allegedly turned over was one entitled 'Reporting Guidance: Foreign Intelligence Information.' According to the affidavit, this document '...would give... KGB a detailed picture of ...intelligence activities, techniques and requirements.' That, one FBI source told ABC News, could be 'compared to the breaking of the Japanese military code during World War II.' Officials say Miller has admitted turning that document over, that after he was placed under surveillance, other FBI agents say Miller turn over other documents as well. Based on the sketchy information available about the extent of the KGB penetration, some intelligence experts suggest the Soviets may have scored a coup. RAY\CLINE (former CIA deputy director): It would enable the KGB to reconstruct the state of knowledge in the United States about KGB operations here. And that is, of course, enormously useful.

WALKER: Whatever the damage to the FBI, it appears it could have been worse. Agent Miller was set to travel next week to the Eastern bloc to exchange much more information for money. Kenneth Walker, ABC News, at the FBI in Washington.

3 October 1984

FBI SPY ARREST JENNINGS: Good evening. The FBI has arrested one of its own. Richard Miller of Los Angeles has been charged with spying for the Soviet Union. He is the first member of the FBI to be charged with working for a foreign power while on active duty. Tom Schell reports from Los Angeles on how the agency caught up with one of its own employees.

SCHELL: Miller appeared in U.S. District Court in San Diego today to answer charges that he conspired with two Soviet citizens to deliver defense and intelligence secrets to the Soviet Union. Miller was fired by the FBI yesterday after 20 years as a special agent. For the past three years he's been assigned to the counterintelligence unit in Los Angeles. He was ordered held without bail until tomorrow to give him time to hire an attorney. An FBI affidavit alleges that Miller conspired with Nikolay and Svetlana Ogorodnikov, two Soviet immigrants.

RICHARD BRETZING (FBI special agent): We believe they are both covert agents of the KGB.

SCHELL: The FBI statement also says that Miller demanded \$65,000 in cash and gold for his information. Justice Department sources told ABC News that Svetlana and Miller had a sexual relationship. Their first encounter was last May. This morning, FBI agents searched the Hollywood apartment of the Ogorodnikovs, looking for further evidence of the alleged conspiracy. Miller lived at this house near San Diego with his wife and eight children on weekends. But during the week he maintained this home in the Los Angeles area. With Miller's permission, FBI agents searched his L.A. home last Friday, and according to their affidavit they found, 'FBI classified documents concerning foreign counterintelligence investigation and activities.' The affidavit alleges there were several meetings over the past four months. It says that in late August, Miller and Svetlana Ogorodnikova went to San Francisco to establish his FBI credentials with the KGB agents at the Soviet Consulate, that Miller had already given her a secret document detailing the workings of the FBI counterspy. Also in August, Miller allegedly met Svetlana's husband for the first time at their apartment, but Nikolay used the name of Nikolay Wolfson. Wolfson was identified by Svetlana as the man who would pay Miller for FBI documents. Other meeting sites were named, this restaurant in Santa Monica, this park in Westwood, among others. The Ogorodnikovs were arraigned in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles this afternoon and both were denied bail. If convicted, all three could face life in prison. Tom Schell, ABC News, Los Angeles.

CBS EVENING NEWS
3 October 1984

FBI SPY ARREST RATHER: Good evening. This is the CBS Evening News, Dan Rather reporting. A 20-year FBI counterintelligence veteran working in Los Angeles is under FBI arrest tonight. The charges: espionage for the Soviets, the first time ever the FBI has charged one of its own with working for a foreign power. Also in custody, the woman KGB major the FBI man got involved with personally and the Soviet KGB agent's husband. Terry Drinkwater has tonight's FBI story.

DRINKWATER: KGB Maj. Svetlana Ogordnikov and her husband *Nikolai were arraigned in Los Angeles late today, charged with recruiting veteran FBI agent Richard Miller as a spy. Never before had an agent been accused of collaborating with the Soviets, and throughout the bureau there was shock. WILLIAM WEBSTER (FBI director): It's a very sad day for us. It's really only news because it has happened, to our knowledge, only this time.

DRINKWATER: Agent Miller's FBI job was to keep track of Soviet immigrants in southern California. Svetlana was one, living in this Hollywood apartment. The FBI charges that as Miller and Svetlana drove around Los Angeles a personal relationship developed, Miller telling her his problems, Svetlana inducing him to espionage. Court documents show they spent hours and hours together, at the beach at Malibu, long lunches and dinners. In August, the FBI charges Miller began copying secret files, including bureau information on tracking foreign agents. There was a three-day trip to San Francisco, during which Svetlana is accused of delivering documents to the Soviet consulate. The bureau said she borrowed Miller's FBI badge to show to her superiors to prove the document's authenticity. Ultimately, the FBI said Miller wanted at least \$50,000. RICHARD BRETZING (FBI): He had some financial problems, and, ah, I believe those, ah, may have motivated him somewhat.

VOICE OF UNIDENTIFIED MALE REPORTER: Was he involved with her in a personal relationship? BRETZING: I've described his relationship as far as I'm going to today.

DRINKWATER: When the FBI got wind of the plot, it followed the two to meetings in this parking lot and bugged Svetlana's apartment. There today, agents removed everything but the dirty dishes, old shoes and newspapers. Svetlana was well known in the Russian community, thin, a chain smoker. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She's a blonde. She's a nice people, a nice lady.

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DRINKWATER: Good-looking woman? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:
Good-looking woman. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: She, ah, seemed
to want to, was interested in, ah, stirring up loyalty to
Soviet Union.

DRINKWATER: She also apparently wanted to make a quick
major delivery to the Soviets. Svetlana had booked
herself and Miller on a flight to Europe a week from
today, her purpose to hand over still more documents to
the Russian agents. Terry Drinkwater, CBS News, Los
Angeles.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
3 October 1984

FBI SPY ARREST BROKAW: Good evening, I'm Tom Brokaw with NBC Nightly News. The FBI today arrested one of its own as a double agent, a spy for the Soviet Union. The suspected spy is Richard Miller, an FBI agent for 20 years. He was working in counterespionage when he met a Soviet couple, and according to the FBI the Russian woman was a major in the KGB. They say that Miller fell for her. George Lewis reports it is a dark moment in the FBI's history.

LEWIS: The government contends that agent Miller met here, in this West Hollywood apartment house, with the Soviet couple and offered to sell government secrets. The price: \$50,000 in gold and \$7,000 in cash. Miller, a 1963 graduate of Brigham Young University, was not considered an especially good agent by some of his colleagues. He had been reprimanded several times for sloppy work. At his house in a Los Angeles suburb, investigators found a number of stolen classified documents. This is the first time in its history that the FBI has arrested one of its own on spying charges. As one agent put it, 'This is a real emotional time for us.' In Washington, FBI Director William Webster had this reaction: WILLIAM\WEBSTER (FBI director): First time that I know of any charges ever being brought, but we brought it. We investigated it, and we have taken appropriate steps to limit the damage.

LEWIS: The damage may be that the Soviets have learned a few things about FBI techniques to combat spying. Miller appeared in court this morning and entered no plea. He is being held without bail. His wife and one of his eight children were present. Miller split his time between his job in Los Angeles and his family in San Diego and was said to be having serious personal and financial problems. Nikolay and Svetlana Ogorodnikov appeared in court this afternoon. Government sources say she is a major in the KGB and may have been having an affair with the FBI man. The charges, according to the FBI, are extremely serious. RICHARD\BRETZING (FBI agent in charge, Los Angeles): If convicted of these charges, these individuals could receive a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.